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PRESS RELEASE

January 4, 2006

FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGES THREE NIAGARA COUNTY MEN WITH EXTORTION AND ARSON

**RE: *UNITED STATES v. DAVID CAIN, JR.,
JAMIE SOHA AND PATRICK ACKROYD***

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced the arrest of Jamie Soha, 30, of Brockport, NY, and the unsealing of an indictment handed up on December 27, 2005 that charged Soha, Patrick Ackroyd, 54, of Lockport, NY, and David Cain, Jr., 35, of Barker, New York which charged the three (3) defendants with conspiracy to commit extortion in interstate commerce (Hobbs Act extortion), extortion, and using fire to commit extortion in violation of Section 1951 and 844(h) of Title 18 of the United States Code. The conspiracy and extortion counts each carry maximum sentences of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The arson charge carries a mandatory 10 year sentence which must run consecutively to any other counts of conviction, and carries a fine of up to \$250,000. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime

. . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. **(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6))**.

Assistant United States Attorney Anthony M. Bruce stated that the indictment charges that David Cain, Jr., the owner of Dave's Tree Service of 8103 State Street, Gasport enlisted Soha's and Ackroyd's help in damaging, destroying, and stealing equipment belonging to rival tree service and logging businesses owned by Keith Kent at Kent's business, Jordan River Logging, 13299 West Lee Road, Albion and by the late Chuck Bracey, who did business as Bracey's Tree Service at 6161 McKee Street, Newfane in an effort to drive these rival tree service and logging businesses out of business. Mr. Bruce noted that in Kent's case, Cain, Jr., Soha, and Ackroyd also allegedly aided and abetted in the theft and arson of a pick up truck belonging to Kent, thus resulting in the arson charge against them.

David Cain, Jr., and Jamie Soha will be arraigned before Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder, Jr. at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon. It is believed that Ackroyd, who is also on state parole, has fled the area and is considered a fugitive.

The indictment is the tenth indictment that has resulted from a still-ongoing investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge David DeJoe, the Niagara County Sheriffs Department under the direction of Sheriff Thomas Beilen, the Orleans County Sheriffs Department under the direction of Sheriff Scott D. Hess, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn. Assistance to the investigation is also being provided by the Niagara and Orleans County District Attorney's Offices under District Attorneys Matthew J. Murphy III and Joseph V. Cardone,

respectively.

The evidence was presented to the grand jury by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony M. Bruce who will handle the trial of this and the related cases.